

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7425

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FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

REF: STATE 013195

IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
CONCERNING AUSTRALIA BIENNALE, FOLLOWING ANSWERS SUPPLIED
BY AUSTRALIA COUNCIL AND LISTED IN ORDER GIVEN REFTEL:
A. OFFICIAL TITLE IS BIENNALE OF SYDNEY. TITLE APPLIED
LOOSELY AS EXHIBITION DOES NOT TAKE PLACE REGULARLY EVERY
TWO YEARS. B. SPONSORS ARE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL, DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRANSFIELD PTY. LTD. AUSTRALIA COUNCIL ALSO
HOPING INVOLVE NEW SOUTH WALES STATE GOVERNMENT IN FINANCING,
BUT NO DETAILS AVAILABLE AS YET RE EXTENT OF PROPOSED
INVOLVEMENT. C. ARTISTS SECECTED THROUGH BIENNALE DIRECTOR,
TOM MCCULLOUGH IN CONCENSUS OPINION REACHED WITH AUSTRALIAN
AND OVERSEAS ARTISTS AND CRITICS. BIENNALE NON-
COMPETITIVE SO NO PRIZES AWARDED. D. TOM MCCULLOUGH
APPOINTED NEW DIRECTOR JANUARY 1976. MAJOR PROBLEMS
CONCERN OVERSEAS TRANSPORT OF WORKS OF ART, AND CONTACTS
WITH ARTISTS AND CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS OVERSEAS. THSES
PROBLEMS EXACERBATED THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF SHORT PERIOD
IN WHICH TO ORGANISE 1976 BIENNALE TAKING PLACE NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER. E. AS 1976 BIENNALE WILL BE BROADLY SCULPTURE
ORIENTED EXHIBITION, WILL DIFFER RADICALLY FROM LAST
BIENNALE IN 1973 WHICH CONCENTRATED ON PAINTING. WHILE
DOCUMENTS FROM PREVIOUS EXHIBITION WOULD NOT NOW BE
RELEVANT, POST WILL FORWARD 1976 DOCUMENTATION WHEN
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AVAILABLE. F. SEE ABOVE. BIENNALE WILL TAKE PLACE IN

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY.
POST WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INFORMATION WHEN AVAILABLE
CONCERNING NEW CO-ORDINATING GROUP DESCRIBED REFTEL,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW UPCOMING BIENNALE SYDNEY.
PERCIVAL

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